



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official  
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory**

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-20160822-00394-ADV (Health Advisory)

**RECIPIENTS:** To all Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, Labs, Nurse Practitioners, and Healthcare providers – Statewide

**DATE:** Monday, August 22, 2016

**SUBJECT:** *Update: Expanded Guidance for Travel and Testing of Pregnant Women and Their Partners and the Prevention of Zika Virus Infection Related to Newly Identified Area of Local Transmission in Miami-Dade Florida*

Dear Colleagues,

Today the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identified a new area of active transmission of Zika virus in a 1.5 square mile section of Miami Beach (see CDC Health Alert Network Message at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00394.asp>). This is in addition to a previously identified area of local mosquito-borne transmission (active transmission) of Zika in a one square mile area in the Wynwood neighborhood in Miami.

As a result of this new information, the previous travel, testing and prevention recommendations have been expanded to include this newly identified area of active transmission (see <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/intheus/florida-update.html>). The expanded recommendations apply to pregnant women, women of reproductive age, and their partners who live in or traveled to Miami Beach after July 14, 2016.

For all other areas of Miami-Dade County, while further investigations are underway, CDC advises strict adherence to precautions to prevent mosquito bites. Pregnant women and partners of pregnant women who are concerned about potential Zika virus exposure may also consider postponing nonessential travel to all parts of Miami-Dade County.

**MSDH Travel Recommendations:**

1. Pregnant women should avoid travel to this area of Miami Beach, or any other area with active Zika virus transmission\*, and pregnant women with travel to any area with active Zika transmission\* should be tested for Zika virus infection.
2. Women and men who travel to these areas in Miami or any other area with active Zika transmission should take precautions to avoid mosquito exposures during travel and for 3 weeks after returning home, and should take precautions to minimize sexual transmission, especially during pregnancy.
3. All pregnant women should be assessed (not tested) for Zika virus exposure at each prenatal visit. This should include questions regarding recent travel to Zika affected

areas\* for the patient and their sexual partners. **IF** there is a potential exposure, the healthcare provider should contact the MSDH Office of Epidemiology for testing recommendations.

### **MSDH Testing Recommendations:**

Testing is recommended for the following (see [http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/resources/6804.pdf](http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/6804.pdf) for MSDH Zika Testing Algorithm for Healthcare Providers):

- Symptomatic persons (at least one of the following symptoms within 2 weeks of exposure – rash, fever, arthralgia, or conjunctivitis) with a history of personal travel to an area with active Zika transmission\* OR sexual contact with a traveler to an area with active Zika transmission\*.
- Asymptomatic pregnant women who, while pregnant, have traveled to an area with active Zika transmission\* or have had sexual contact with a traveler to an area with active Zika transmission\*

MSDH provides Zika testing through the Mississippi Public Health Laboratory (MPHL). All requests for Zika testing at the MPHL must come directly from the patient's clinician to the MSDH Office of Epidemiology for approval (601- 576-7725 or 601-576-7400 after hours).

\* For areas with active transmission see <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/intheus/florida-update.html> and <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/active-countries.html>

## *Alerting Message Specification Settings*

<b>Originating Agency:</b>	Mississippi State Department of Health
<b>Alerting Program:</b>	MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
<b>Message Identifier:</b>	MSHAN-20160819-00394-ADV
<b>Program (HAN) Type:</b>	Health Advisory
<b>Status (Type):</b>	Actual ()
<b>Message Type:</b>	Alert
<b>Reference:</b>	MSHAN-00394
<b>Severity:</b>	Unknown
<b>Acknowledgement:</b>	No
<b>Sensitive:</b>	Not Sensitive
<b>Message Expiration:</b>	Undetermined
<b>Urgency:</b>	Undetermined
<b>Delivery Time:</b>	600 minutes

## *Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings*

<b>Originating Agency:</b>	A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
<b>Alerting Program:</b>	The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
<b>Message Identifier:</b>	A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT ( <b>ALT=Health Alert</b> , <b>ADV=Health Advisory</b> , <b>UPD=Health Update</b> , <b>MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service</b> )).
<b>Program (HAN) Type:</b>	Categories of Health Alert Messages.
<b>Health Alert:</b>	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
<b>Health Advisory:</b>	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
<b>Health Update:</b>	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
<b>Health Info Service:</b>	Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
<b>Status (Type):</b>	
Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
<b>Message Type:</b>	
Alert:	Indicates an original Alert
Update:	Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel:	Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error:	Indicates prior alert has been retracted

**Reference:** For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

**Severity:**

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

**Acknowledgement:** Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

**Sensitive:**

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

**Message Expiration:** Undetermined.

**Urgency:** Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

**Delivery Time:** Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).